

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in an assay in which a sample is presented to an instrument, the apparatus comprising:

a first component which includes

a first optical chamber having a first inlet, and

a second optical chamber having a second inlet; and

a second component which includes

~~an inlet port, said inlet port being movable relative to each of said first and second inlets such that the inlet port can be brought into liquid communication with each inlet in turn as required, said inlet port accommodating a filter means or a binder retaining means; and~~

a third component which includes

a sample receiving chamber, and

at least one other chamber adapted to contain an eluting medium,

wherein said second component is slidably disposed below the sample receiving chamber of said third component and above the optical chambers of the first component, characterized in that said inlet port being movable relative to each of said first and second inlets and thereby [[is]] brought into liquid communication with each inlet in turn along a linear path.

2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which is a cartridge.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] in which the third component seals the sample receiving chamber of the second component so that liquids stored or pre-loaded into the chamber are only released when the inlet ports formed therein are aligned with the optical chambers in the first component.

6. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising additional sealing means.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] in which the third component is provided with a handle or other means by which it can be moved.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] in which the second component comprises a resilient component and a cover.

9. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, in which the resilient component comprises a plug closure.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] in which the second component comprises a channel within which the third component slides.

11. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising locator lugs to ensure correct orientation in a measuring instrument.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] comprising a plurality of fins projecting from the first component.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], in which the optical chambers are curved.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], comprising air relief tubes.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], wherein the first component is made of a clear material.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] in which the second component comprises two parts, a resilient component and a cover.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], wherein the resilient component comprises an elongate channel into which the third component is slidably mounted.

18. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein each air relief tube co-operates with an aperture in the slide such that when the inlet port is correctly aligned with each chamber the aperture is aligned with the associated air relief tube thereby causing an air lock to break thus causing release of the chamber contents through the filter into the inlet there below.

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], wherein the first component comprises windows which are inset from the main apparatus surface.

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], wherein the second component is "I" shaped in cross section.

21. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the apparatus has a toothed surface which teeth provide a means by which the apparatus can be caused to move along a track of a reading instrument.

22-24. (Cancelled)